



IBOP-EC Update



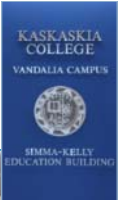
Network design continues with the project on target to complete the detailed design and construction specifications for 25% design of the network backbone and 25% design of the network laterals by June 30. Having received the Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) from NTIA in April, the project has been able to move forward with fiber splicing that is a necessary prerequisite for lighting existing leased fiber from Collinsville to Springfield along the I-55 corridor. We anticipate having this segment up and operational by late summer.

In parallel to this, we anticipate the start of new fiber construction activity late this summer, with the first portion of the build running from just south of Kankakee to Champaign. The next anticipated areas for fiber construction will be:

- 95th Street and I-57 to the south side of Kankakee
- Champaign through Bloomington; Bloomington north to Chenoa; Bloomington south to Lincoln
- Fiber laterals within Bloomington / Normal (part of the CIRBN portion of the project)

Fiber construction activity will be handled on a rolling basis as construction design packages are completed, and the approach is such that multiple network segments will be under construction at the same time in order to meet project deadlines.

Kaskaskia Community College personnel discuss placement of equipment and fiber with ICN staff



Key Dates

August 2011
Collinsville to Springfield Segment Operational

December 2011
Collinsville to Chicago Segment Operational

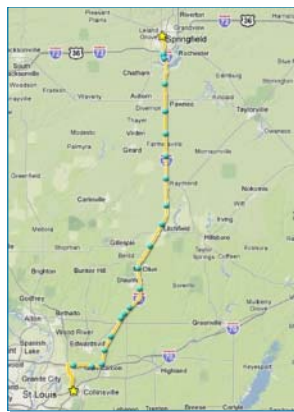


ICN staff continues to refine the funding allocation model for primary constituents, currently focusing on a model for libraries which takes into account the need to accommodate the higher bandwidth demand of libraries serving large populations.

The current cost recovery model provides the same baseline level to all libraries regardless of their size which has not always met the minimum needs of our larger libraries.

Lighting Collinsville to Chicago

With the FONSI in hand work is starting to light the fiber between Collinsville and Springfield.



During the next few months a number of activities will be taking place including:

- crews from Level3 will be in the field to splice fiber,
- another CMS vendor will be working in Springfield to extend the existing fiber into the ICN POP site,
- CMS will be working with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority and the Illinois Department of Transportation to connect the fiber in the Chicago area to the ICN POP site in downtown Chicago,
- CMS staff will be installing optical equipment at the Collinsville, Springfield, and Chicago POP sites.

CMS is targeting to have the Collinsville to Springfield span operational by late summer and the Springfield to Chicago span in December 2011.

Construction RFP

The initial fiber optic outside plant construction solicitation was cancelled, in part, because more than half of the vendor responses received were disqualified for administrative or procedural errors. It was determined to be in the best interests of the State to cancel the solicitation and issue a new solicitation that is substantially similar.



The new solicitation was reissued April 29 with proposals due May 20. While this will delay the start of construction activities by about a month, the project team expects to make up the time by using multiple vendors working on different routes simultaneously.